

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: ECOSOC, EGEN, UN

SUBJ: 63RD ECOSOC: AGENDA ITEM 27 -ARGENTINE DRAFT DECISION ON
NGO COMMITTEE

1. TRANSMITTED BELOW IS THE TEXT OF AN ARGENTINE DRAFT
DECISION (E/AC.24/L.556) RELATING TO THE REVIEW OF NON-
GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGO) IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS BY
THE NGO COMMITTEE. THE BASIC IDEA OF THE DRAFT IS (A)
TO HAVE THE NGO COMMITTEE CONSIDER THIS ITEM EARLIER
THAN TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED, AND (B) TO HAVE THE SYG INVITE
COMMENTS FROM INTERESTED MEMBER STATES. THE DECISION WILL
BE CONSIDERED UNDER AGENDA ITEM 27 (CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES)
SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AUG 1.

2. THE SECRETARIAT'S COMMENTS ON THE SCHEDULING ISSUE
(SEE PARA 6 (B) OF E/L. 1769) ARE TO THE EFFECT THAT IT IS
NOT TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE TO PREPARE THE NECESSARY
DOCUMENTATION FOR THE NGO COMMITTEE TO COMPLETE ITS WORK
BY THE 64TH ECOSOC. THE SECRETARIAT HAS PERSONALLY
ARGUED THIS POINT WITH THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION BUT
WITH NO SUCCESS.

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3. THE REQUEST FOR GOVERNMENT COMMENTS, AND IN FACT
THIS WHOLE EXERCISE, STEMS FROM ARGENTINE PIQUE AT AN
INCIDENT DURING THE LAST SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION WHEN A PAPER WAS CIRCULATED BY A NGO WHICH
CRITICIZED THE GOA AND WHICH REPORTEDLY WAS WRITTEN BY
A KNOWN ANTI-GOA PERSON WITH NO AFFILIATION TO THE NGO

IN QUESTION. (USUN HAS FULL DETAILS OF THIS INCIDENT.)
WHILE WE BELIEVE THAT THIS MIGHT BE A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT
WHICH COULD POLITICIZE THE NGO COMMITTEE OPERATIONS, WE
SEE NO GROUNDS TO OBJECT TO SUCH A REQUEST, ESPECIALLY
SINCE ECOSOC RES 1296 (XLIV) CALLS FOR THE COMMITTEE TO
CONSIDER "RELEVANT INFORMATION." IT DOES, HOWEVER, POSE
AN ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON THE SECRETARIAT.

4. EFFORTS TO CONVINCE THE ARGENTINIANS NOT TO PUSH THIS
DECISION HAVE THUS FAR BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. IF DECISION
DOES COME UP FOR A VOTE, US DEL PROPOSES THAT WE EITHER
ABSTAIN OR VOTE AGAINST IT ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT IS
UNREASONABLE TO ASK THE SECRETARIAT TO PERFORM A TASK
WHICH IT CLEARLY SAYS THAT IT CANNOT DO. DEPT'S INSTRUCTIONS
REQUESTED. BEGIN TEXT

ARGENTINA: DRAFT DECISION

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL TAKES NOTE OF PARAGRAPH 6 OF
DOCUMENT E/L.1769 (PROVISIONAL CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS
FOR 1978 AND 1979) AND WITH REGARD TO SUB-PARAGRAPH (B) THEREOF
DECIDES:

(1) THAT, AS A MATTER OF EXCEPTIONAL PRIORITY, THE COMMITTEE
ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD IMPLEMENT AT ITS NEXT
SESSION IN JANUARY 1978 THE MANDATE ESTABLISHED IN COUNCIL DECISION
227 (LXII) AND RESOLUTIONS 1296 (XLIV) AND 1919 (LVIII)
OF THE COUNCIL, AND SHOULD REPORT TO THE COUNCIL AT ITS SIXTY-
FOURTH SESSION:
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(2) IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE TASK OF THE COMMITTEE,
(A) TO REQUEST NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, THROUGH THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL, TO SUBMIT THEIR REPORTS IN PURSUANCE OF
RESOLUTION 1296 (XLIV), PARAGRAPH 30 (B), IN AS MANY OF THE
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AS POSSIBLE;
(B) TO REQUEST THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO INVITE INTERESTED MEMBER
STATES TO PROVIDE ANY RELEVANT INFORMATION CONCERNING COMPLIANCE BY
NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING
CONSULTATIVE STATUS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF RESOLUTION
1296 (XLIV) (PARAGRAPHS 35, 36 AND 40) AND OF RESOLUTION 1919
(LVIII);
(C) TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR THE NEXT
SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS;
AND FOR THIS PURPOSE
(D) TO AMEND THE DATES APPEARING IN THE PROVISIONAL CALENDAR OF
CONFERENCES (E/L.1769) SO THAT THE SESSION SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN
NEW YORK WOULD TAKE PLACE FROM 3 TO 6 JANUARY 1978. END TEXT
VANDEN HEUVEL

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